

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

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Chairman King Cites GOP Homeland Security Accomplishments

Criticizes Politicization of Critical National Issue

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2005)—Today, House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Peter T. King (R-NY), reiterated the accomplishments of the federal government in securing the homeland, while criticizing those who attempt to use the issue for political gain.

“It’s a shame that a few Democrats have chosen to play politics with an issue so important to the American people,” said King. “Since September 11th, Republicans in the House and Senate have worked with President Bush to deliver approximately \$150 billion in federal funding for homeland security operations nationwide—funding that is being used to better equip and train first responders, safeguard our cities, secure our borders, and dramatically improve our intelligence gathering and sharing capabilities.

“At the same time, we’ve provided local, state, and federal law enforcement officials with the authority and funding they need to interrupt domestic terror cells and keep our citizens safe, resulting in the disruption of at least ten serious domestic al-Qa’ida plots,” he continued. “These are important accomplishments, ones that we must continue to build on—not play politics with—to ensure the safety of the American people.”

King noted that Homeland Security accomplishments since September 11, 2001, include:

- **Homeland Security Act of 2002**—Established the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as an Executive department of the United States tasked with preventing domestic terrorist attacks, reducing the vulnerability of the Nation to terrorism, and assisting the recovery and response efforts in the event of a terrorist attack. Just under two-thirds (120) of House Democrats voted against this legislation.
- **The USA PATRIOT Act of 2001**—Enabled the federal government to effectively deter and punish terrorist acts in the United States and around the world, and enhanced law enforcement investigatory missions.

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- **The REAL ID Act**—A key 9/11 Commission recommendation, the REAL ID Act federally standardizes the requirements for applying and issuing state identification cards. According to the 9/11 Commission, the 19 hijackers responsible for the 9/11 terrorist attacks carried between them 13 valid drivers' licenses and 21 state-issued ID cards.
- **The Intelligence Reform Act**—Made important reforms in the Intelligence Community, including the creation of a Director of National Intelligence to oversee all intelligence-related gathering and analysis activity of the United States.
- **Project BioShield**—Delivered \$5.6 billion to enhance research, development, procurement, and use of biomedical countermeasures to respond to public health threats affecting national security.
- **First Responder Funding**—Through a variety of programs, over \$30 billion in federal funding has been allocated for first responders over the past four years.

“And we continue to work, day in and day out, to ensure our Nation remains secure,” King said. “That includes working to reauthorize the Patriot Act, enhance border security, improve the Transportation Security Administration, and guarantee a more effective allocation and use of first responder funding.

“Let’s not forget, a number of Democrats have consistently voted against providing proper funding for the War on Terror and provisions important to our homeland security, such as the REAL ID Act. Many even voted against the creation of a Department of Homeland Security in the first place,” he concluded. “If they think a little partisan grandstanding is going to make up for being soft on this issue, they are mistaken. I hope that in the future they can choose to put politics aside and work with us in a bipartisan manner to make certain our homeland remains secure.”

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